

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for communicating streaming data, comprising the steps of:
providing a first set of data;
storing the first set of data locally;
providing a second set of data via a network wherein the second set of data is streaming;
enabling communication of the second set of data so long as a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available for communication;
in the event there is not a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data available, enabling communication of the locally stored first set of data;
after communication of the locally stored first set of data, determining that a sufficient amount of the second set of data is available for communicating and indicating to a user that communication of the second set of data may continue; and
enabling the user to choose to continue communicating the locally stored first set of data or resume communication of the second set of data.
2. The method as described in claim 1, wherein the second set of data includes a video stream viewable by a user.
3. The method as described in claim 1, wherein the first set of data and the second set of data are transmitted from a first source.
4. The method as described in claim 3, wherein the first set of data is made available for communication when there is an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data for communication.
5. The method as described in claim 1, wherein the first set of data is provided from a first source and the second set of data is provided from a second source.

6. The method as described in claim 5, wherein the first source consists of at least one of the following: a hard drive, a floppy disk, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), a compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM), a file transfer protocol site, a web site, a satellite provider or an online service site.

7. The method as described in claim 1, wherein while the first set of data is being communicated due to an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data, monitoring the second set of data to determine if a sufficient amount of streaming data is available for communication.

8. The method as described in claim 7, wherein the user may manually enable communication of the second set of data when a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available.

9. The method as described in claim 1, wherein a reason for an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data being available consists of at least one of the following: high Internet traffic, slow transmission rates, insufficient processing resources, interference with a connection between a user system and a provider system, termination of a connection between a user system and a provider system, or lowered throughput.

10. The method as described in claim 1, wherein the network consists of at least one of the following: a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), an online service, an Internet server, a satellite system, a wireless system, or a World Wide Web server.

11. The method as described in claim 1, wherein the streaming data set is an interactive streaming data set.

12. The method as described in claim 11, wherein the interactive streaming data set is a video game.

13. A program of instructions storable on a medium readable by an information handling system for communicating streaming data, comprising the steps of:
- providing a first set of data, the first set of data stored locally;
 - providing a second set of data via a network wherein the second set of data is streaming;
 - enabling communication of the second set of data so long as a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available for;
 - in the event there is not a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data available, enabling communication of the locally stored first set of data;
 - after communication of the locally stored first set of data, determining that a sufficient amount of the second set of data is available for communicating, indicating to a user that communication of the second set of data may continue; and
 - enabling the user to choose to continue communicating the locally stored first set of data or resume communication of the second set of data.
14. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein the second set of data includes a video stream viewable by a user.
15. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein the first set of data and the second set of data are transmitted from a first source.
16. The program of instructions as described in claim 15, wherein the first set of data is made available for communication when there is an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data for communication.
17. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein the first set of data is provided from a first source and the second set of data is provided from a second source.
18. The program of instructions as described in claim 17, wherein the first source consists of at least one of the following: a hard drive, a floppy disk, a random access memory (RAM),

a read-only memory (ROM), a compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM), a file transfer protocol site, a web site, a satellite provider, or an online service site.

19. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein while the first set of data is communicated due to an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data, monitoring the second set of data to determine if a sufficient amount of streaming data is available for communication.

20. The program of instructions as described in claim 19, wherein the user may manually enable communication of the second set of data when a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available.

21. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein a reason for an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data being available consists of at least one of the following: high Internet traffic, slow transmission rates, insufficient processing resources, interference with a connection between a user system and a provider system, termination of a connection between a user system and a provider system, or lowered throughput.

22. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein the network consists of at least one of the following: a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), an online service, an Internet server, a satellite system, a wireless system, or a World Wide Web server.

23. The program of instructions as described in claim 13, wherein the streaming data of the second data set is an interactive streaming data set.

24. The program of instructions as described in claim 23, wherein the interactive streaming data set is a video game.

25. An information handling system comprising:
- a processor for executing a program of instructions on the information handling system;
 - a memory coupled to the processor for storing the program of instructions executable by said processor;
 - an input and output system coupled to the processor for coupling the information handling system to a network;
 - the program of instructions capable of configuring the information handling system to perform the following steps:
 - providing a first set of data;
 - storing the first set of data locally;
 - providing a second set of data via a network wherein the second set of data is streaming;
 - enabling communication of the second set of data so long as a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available for ;
 - in the event there is not a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data available, enabling communication of the locally stored first set of data;
 - after communication of the locally stored first set of data, determining that a sufficient amount of the second set of data is available for communicating, indicating to a user that communication of the second set of data may continue; and
 - enabling the user to choose to continue communicating the locally stored first set of data or resume communication of the second set of data.
26. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein the second set of data includes a video stream viewable by a user.
27. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein the first set of data and the second set of data are transmitted from a first source.
28. The information handling system as described in claim 27, wherein the first set of data

is made available for communication when there is an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data for communication.

29. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein the first set of data is provided from a first source and the second set of data is provided from a second source.

30. The information handling system as described in claim 29, wherein the first source consists of at least one of the following: a hard drive, a floppy disk, a random access memory (RAM), a read-only memory (ROM), a compact disk read only memory (CD-ROM), a file transfer protocol site, a web site, a node, a satellite provider, or an online service site.

31. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein while the first set of data is communicated due to an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data, monitoring the second set of data to determine if a sufficient amount of streaming data is available for communication.

32. The information handling system as described in claim 31, wherein the user may manually enable communication of the second set of data when a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available.

33. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein a reason for an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data being available consists of at least one of the following: high Internet traffic, slow transmission rates, insufficient processing resources, interference with a connection between a user system and a provider system, termination of a connection between a user system and a provider system, or lowered throughput.

34. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein the network consists of at least one of the following: a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), an online service, an Internet server, a satellite system, a wireless system, or a World

Wide Web server.

35. The information handling system as described in claim 25, wherein the second set of data is an interactive streaming data set.

36. The information handling system as described in claim 35, wherein the interactive streaming data set is a video game.

37. An information handling system comprising:
means for executing a program of instructions on the information handling system;
means, coupled to said executing means, for storing a program of instructions executable by said executing means;
means, coupled to said executing means, for coupling the information handling system to a network;
the program of instructions capable of configuring the information handling system to perform the following steps:
providing a first set of data;
providing a second set of data via a network wherein the second set of data is streaming;
enabling communication of the second set of data so long as a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data is available for ;
in the event there is not a sufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data available, enabling communication of the locally stored first set of data;
after communication of the locally stored first set of data, determining that a sufficient amount of the second set of data is available for communicating, indicating to a user that communication of the second set of data may continue; and
enabling the user to choose to continue communicating the locally stored first set of data or resume communication of the second set of data.

38. The information handling system as described in claim 37, wherein the first set of data is made available for communication when there is an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data for communication.

39. The information handling system as described in claim 37, wherein while the first set of data is communicated due to an insufficient amount of streaming data of the second set of data, monitoring the second set of data to determine if a sufficient amount of streaming data is available for communication.

40. The information handling system as described in claim 37, wherein the second set of data is an interactive streaming data set.

41. The information handling system as described in claim 40, wherein the interactive streaming data set is a video game.

42. A method for playing a video game, comprising the steps of:
- initiating a video game by a user;
 - providing a first set of data from a source;
 - storing the first set of data locally;
 - providing a second set of data from the source via a network wherein the second set of data is an interactive streaming data set;
 - interaction by the user with the interactive streaming data set;
 - enabling communication of the second set of data so long as a sufficient amount of interactive streaming data of the second set of data is available for communication;
 - in the event there is not a sufficient amount of interactive streaming data of the second set of data available, enabling communication of the locally stored first set of data;
 - after communication of the locally stored first set of data, determining that a sufficient amount of the second set of data is available for communicating, indicating to a user that communication of the second set of data may continue; and
 - enabling the user to choose to continue communicating the locally stored first set of data or resume communication of the second set of data.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein the source of the first data set is different than the source of the second data set.